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Application Serial No. 09/943,562

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-44 - Cancelled

45. (New) A method of serving objects in a computing network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for an object stored on an intelligent storage system; and
evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request.

46. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises:

serving the stored object through the recipient of the received request when the selected criteria are not met; and

informing a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met.

47. (New) The method according to Claim 46, wherein the subsequent connection bypasses the recipient of the received request.

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48. (New) The method according to Claim 47, wherein informing a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met uses a redirect code of an existing protocol.

49. (New) The method according to Claim 48, wherein the existing protocol is Hypertext Transfer Protocol.

50. (New) The method according to Claim 48, wherein the existing protocol is Wireless Session Protocol.

51. (New) The method according to Claim 48, further comprising requesting establishment of the subsequent connection automatically in response to the redirect code.

52. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the predetermined criteria comprises a size of the stored object.

53. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a statically-specified number.

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54. (New) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the statically-specified number is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.
55. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a dynamically-determined number.
56. (New) The method according to Claim 55, wherein the dynamically-determined number is determined in view of current network conditions.
57. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the predetermined criteria comprises a naming extension of the stored object.
58. (New) The method according to Claim 57, wherein evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a statically-specified set of naming extensions.
59. (New) The method according to Claim 58, wherein the statically-specified set of naming extensions is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

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60. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of naming extensions.

61. (New) The method according to Claim 60, wherein the dynamically-determined set of naming extensions is determined in view of current network conditions.

62. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the predetermined criteria comprises a name of the stored object.

63. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a statically-specified set of object names.

64. (New) The method according to Claim 63, wherein the statically-specified set of object names is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

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65. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of object names.

66. (New) The method according to Claim 65, wherein the dynamically-determined set of object names is determined in view of current network conditions.

67. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the predetermined criteria comprises a content type of the stored object.

68. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a statically-specified set of content types.

69. (New) The method according to Claim 68, wherein the statically-specified set of content types is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

70. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of content types.

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71. (New) The method according to Claim 70, wherein the dynamically-determined set of content types is determined in view of current network conditions.
72. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the predetermined criteria comprises using one or more wildcards which may operate to match more than one stored object.
73. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.
74. (New) A method of deploying objects, the method comprising:
- receiving a deployment request for a particular object;
 - deploying the particular object on an intelligent storage system;
 - evaluating characteristics of the particular object;
 - creating a redirect link on one or more servers from which the particular object may be requested if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object meet predetermined criteria; and
 - creating an object serving link on the one or more servers if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object do not meet the predetermined criteria.
75. (New) The method according to Claim 74, wherein the redirect link enables returning a redirect status code to a requester of the object.

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76. (New) The method according to Claim 75, further comprising requesting establishment of a subsequent connection automatically in response to receiving the redirect status code for retrieving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system.

77. (New) The method according to Claim 75, wherein contents of the redirect link are programmatically created.

78. (New) The method according to Claim 75, wherein contents of the redirect link are manually created.

79. (New) The method according to claim 74, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.

80. (New) A method of serving large objects, the method comprising:
receiving a deployment request for a particular object;
deploying the particular object on an intelligent storage system;
creating a redirect link on one or more servers from which the particular object may be requested;
creating an object serving link on the one or more servers; and
serving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system using the redirect link or through a selected one of the servers using the object serving link.

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81. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein serving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system using the redirect link or through a selected one of the servers using the object serving link comprises delaying until run-time a decision on whether to serve the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system using the redirect link or through a selected one of the servers using the object serving link

82. (New) A system for serving objects in a computing network, comprising:

means for receiving a request for an object stored on an intelligent storage system; and

means for evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request.

83. (New) The system according to Claim 82, wherein the means for evaluating further comprises:

means for serving the stored object through the recipient of the received request when the selected criteria are not met; and

means for informing a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met.

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84. (New) The system according to Claim 83, wherein the subsequent connection bypasses the recipient of the received request.

85. (New) The system according to Claim 83, wherein the means for informing uses a redirect code of an existing protocol, and wherein receipt of the redirect code by the sender of the received request automatically causes the sender to request establishment of the subsequent connection.

86. (New) A system for deploying objects, comprising:

- means for receiving a deployment request for a particular object;
- means for deploying the particular object on an intelligent storage system;
- means for evaluating characteristics of the particular object;
- means for creating a redirect link on one or more servers from which the particular object may be requested, if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object meet predetermined criteria; and
- means for creating an object serving link on the one or more servers if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object do not meet the predetermined criteria.

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87. (New) A computer program product for serving objects in a computing network, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for an object stored on an intelligent storage system; and

computer readable program code configured to evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request.

88. (New) The computer program product according to Claim 87, wherein the computer readable program code configured to evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request further comprises:

computer readable program code configured to serve the stored object through the recipient of the received request when the selected criteria are not met; and

computer readable program code configured to inform a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met.

89. (New) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the subsequent connection bypasses the recipient of the received request.

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90. (New) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the computer readable program code configured to inform a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met uses a redirect code of an existing protocol, and wherein receipt of the redirect code by the sender of the received request automatically causes the sender to request establishment of the subsequent connection.

91. (New) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the predetermined criteria is selected from one of a size of the stored object, a naming extension of the stored object, a name of the stored object, and a content type of the stored object.

92. (New) The computer program product of claim 91, wherein the predetermined criteria are statically-specified.

93. (New) The computer program product of claim 91, wherein the predetermined criteria are dynamically-determined.

94. (New) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the predetermined criteria comprise one or more wildcards which may operate to match more than one stored object.

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95. (New) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.

96. (New) A computer program product for deploying objects, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a deployment request for a particular object;

computer readable program code configured to deploy the particular object on an intelligent storage system;

computer readable program code configured to evaluate characteristics of the particular object;

computer readable program code configured to create a redirect link on one or more servers from which the particular object may be requested if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object meet predetermined criteria; and

computer readable program code configured to create an object serving link on the one or more servers if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object do not meet the predetermined criteria.

97. (New) The computer program product according to Claim 96, wherein the redirect link enables returning a redirect status code to a requester of the object.

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98. (New) The computer program product according to Claim 97, further comprising computer readable program code configured to request establishment of a subsequent connection automatically in response to receiving the redirect status code for retrieving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system.

99. (New) A computer program product for serving objects, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a deployment request for a particular object;

computer readable program code configured to deploy the particular object on an intelligent storage system;

computer readable program code configured to create a redirect link on one or more servers from which the particular object may be requested;

computer readable program code configured to create an object serving link on the one or more servers; and

computer readable program code configured to serve the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system using the redirect link or through a selected one of the servers using the object serving link.

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100. (new) The computer program product according to claim 99, wherein the computer readable program code configured to serve the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system using the redirect link or through a selected one of the servers using the object serving link comprises computer readable program code to delay until run-time a decision on whether to serve the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system using the redirect link or through a selected one of the servers using the object serving link.